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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)			Application Number	10/537,833-Conf. #8685	
			Filing Date	June 8, 2005	
			First Named Inventor	Mikio SAKAGUCHI	
			Art Unit	1793	
			Examiner Name	K. P. Kerns	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	1422-0678PUS1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		
	AA*	US 6,054,073 A	04-25-2000	Kobayashi et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ² -Number ³ -Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		
	BA	JP 2001-71094 A	03-21-2001		✓
	BB	JP 11-188454 A	07-13-1999		✓

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.		
	CA	IMONO, The JOURNAL OF THE JAPAN FOUNDRYMEN'S SOCIETY, Vol. 64, No. 8, pp. 562-567, (1992)		
	CB	Extract translation of technical report, "Application of Mullite Ceramic Beads to Mold Sand" (5 pages)		
	CC	Akira Takahashi, "Report on Particle Shape Analysis Using Binary Image Analysis," pp. 1-3, (2008)		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. * CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an single asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(III)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. * Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). * See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. * Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). * For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. * Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.